

survey, and Sunday School and Young People's publications for the advancement of all the work of the entire Church is a most pleasing and hopeful sign and promise of the progress of the cause of Christ.

I. Education for the Ministry.

The increase in the number of candidates has not been marked in the past years as revealed by the records, but it has been real and for many reasons very gratifying.

Since 1869 the proportion of candidates for the Ministry to the membership of the Church has been an average each year of one candidate to each 609 members. This has varied from one candidate to 441 members (in 1893), to one candidate to 846 members (in 1881). The reports of the Presbyteries to the General Assembly in 1915 show that we had one candidate to 700 members.

Last year ten Presbyteries reported no candidates for the ministry. In these Presbyteries are 272 churches, 143 ministers, 838 ruling elders, and 20,204 members of the Southern Presbyterian Church.

Aided This Year.

On recommendation of the Presbyteries aid was granted by the Executive Committee to 323 candidates (as against 309 the previous year) to the amount of \$32,233.80 (as against \$30,506.50 the year before).

Aid Furnished Candidates.

The maximum amount of aid for the year was \$100.00 to candidates in the

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5:30 A. M. Daily. Local for Danville, Charlotte, Durham and Raleigh.
10:30 A. M. Daily limited for all points South.
3:00 P. M. Ex. Sunday—Local for Durham, Raleigh and intermediate stations.
6:00 P. M. Daily for Danville, Atlanta and Birmingham, with through electric lighted observation sleeping car.
11:15 P. M. Daily limited for all points South. Pullman ready 9:00 P. M.

YORK RIVER SERVICE.
4:15 P. M. Daily. Local for West Point.
5:10 P. M. Daily except Sunday. Steamer train to West Point, connecting for Baltimore. (Parlor Car.)
7:35 A. M. Daily. Local to West Point.
Trains Arrive in Richmond.
From the South: 7:05 A. M., 8:00 A. M., 3:50 P. M., 8:30 P. M., daily, and 8:40 A. M., except Sunday.
From West Point: 8:45 A. M., except Monday and 9:40 A. M., and 6:15 P. M., daily.
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colleges or seminaries. Special funds from churches, Sunday-schools, societies and individuals were forwarded to the committee to be sent to Candidates in special need.

Loans to Candidates.

The first year of trial of the exclusive use of the loan feature of extending aid has clearly demonstrated that it is practicable and acceptable both to the donors of the funds, the recipients of the aid and the authorities at the institutions attended. The largest number of candidates in the history of the Church were aided this year—323 as against 309 last year. Of this number 11 are young ladies who are preparing for mission service in home and foreign fields. In the number of candidates are foreign speaking men of Mexican, Italian, Indian, German and Cuban nationality who are being prepared for work among their own people.

II. Ministerial Relief.

During the past year aid to the amount of \$47,717.50 has been forwarded to 75 ministers, 144 widows and 21 orphans. In these 240 homes are many invalids besides 69 little fatherless children under 14 years of age. The amount paid is an increase of \$4,282 over the amount remitted last year. During the year six ministers and thirteen widows were called to the Father's House.

The Roll.

The 75 ministers have reached the average of 71 years.

The oldest beneficiary is 85 years of age, and has labored 64 years in the service of our Church. The youngest minister enrolled is 29 years of age, and is now an invalid.

Of the 144 widows on our roll, the average age is about 63 years and their husbands spent in the service of our Church an average of 26 years.

Average Assistance Provided.

The average assistance rendered the 23 ministers on the Honorably Retired Roll is \$299.89., the 52 other ministers is \$272.34, each of the 75 ministers is \$280.80, each home of the 144 widows is \$169.74, each of the 21 orphans is 104.76. The average assistance to each of the 240 families on the roll is \$198.14 per annum, or fifty-five cents a day per family.

III. The Endowment Fund of Ministerial Relief.

Last December, when the Endowment Fund of Ministerial Relief was \$332,000, an Elder in one of the Churches, desiring to see our aged and infirm ministers and the needy widows and orphans cared for in a better way and with more certainty, and also to arouse the Church to a fuller realization of her sacred duty, offered to give \$68,000 (thus making the fund \$400,000) if the whole church would give twice this amount or \$136,000 during the year 1916.

Gratifying returns are now reaching our office and we believe our appeal to the Church to awake to the opportunity and privilege of this liberal offer will be heard and the funds needed secured.

There has been added to the Endowment Fund since our last report \$21,312.40, an increase of \$13,799.

IV. The Assembly's Home and School.

All but four of the families who moved to Fredericksburg for the special advantages of the Home and School have now gone to other places where it is more convenient or less expensive to live. The Committee has given them special consideration and has reduced the inconvenience and loss to a minimum. Some of the property has been sold. Some is still being held because of the great sacrifice that must be made in selling at prices offered.

So far as we know there is no orphan child of any minister of our Church who is without a suitable home. There are many little, fatherless children in the homes of widows, who are being aided by the Committee regardless of their place of residence.

V. Schools and Colleges.

No question before the Nation and the Church in the United States today is receiving more careful and prayerful study than that of the education of the youth of the land.

We are glad to report that the Campaign on Christian Education planned by the Council of Church Boards of Education is being quietly and persistently pushed through eighteen of the principal denominations representing more than fifteen millions of members.

We desire to call the attention of the General Assembly to the critical position

sition in which almost every one of the Synods is placed today. Some of the preparatory schools, institutes, junior colleges and colleges that in the past have rendered indispensable service to the Church and the State, and which are sorely needed today are in a most precarious condition.

The cost of educational work has increased in an astonishing way. Professorships, buildings, and equipment scarcely dreamed of in the past are now demanded.

The Synods are not awake and alive to the situation. They appreciate the fact that something must be done and that unless large financial assistance is given at once to meet the present demands several of our most needed institutions must close their doors.

Reformation Anniversary Program.

The last General Assembly called upon the Churches, Presbyteries, and Synods to unite with the other bodies represented in the Council of Church Boards of Education in a celebration in 1917 of the Four Hundredth Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation.

This is the time set for all our Schools and Colleges to come up to the proper educational standards set by the Church. It is a call to all Presbyterians to give themselves to strong endeavor and to prayer.

The Inviting Tasks.

These are some of the tasks before us—some of which must be completed by September, 1917:

1. To complete the organization of the educational forces in each one of the Synods.
2. To awaken our people to the vast importance of Christian Education.
3. To inform all Presbyterian parents of the advantages of education under Christian auspices.
4. To increase the enrollment of our Presbyterian schools, colleges and theological seminaries.
5. To increase the physical equipment and endowment of all institutions to standard requirements.
6. To assist in solving urgent local problems for our institutions.
7. To provide fully endowed professorships for Bible and subjects of applied Christianity in all our colleges.
8. To increase the Student Loan Fund.
9. To co-operate with other evangelical bodies in the supreme effort to meet the deep spiritual needs of all the students in all the institutions of learning in all parts of our southland.
10. To promote well directed and carefully planned Bible study evangelistic campaigns in all our educational institutions.
11. To cooperate in the religious culture of Presbyterian students at the State Universities.
12. To devise means for securing better support for our self-denying and too often over-taxed teachers.

The Day of Prayer for Colleges.

There was a very general observance of the Day of Prayer for Colleges on February 27, 1916. The preceding week was very generally used as a time for special prayer for our Schools and Colleges and for the youth of our Church, who are students in the various institutions throughout the land.

VI. The Student Loan Fund

Since the erection of the Student Loan Fund in September, 1911, 81 young men and 59 young women have been enabled through loans from the Fund to secure a higher education in one of our Presbyterian Colleges. For most of these young people this would have been impossible had it not been for the benefit of the Fund. During the past year 44 boys and 28 girls have received loans amounting to \$6,805. Since the erection of the Fund \$1,478 have been returned.

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Many others are beginning to pay back the amounts borrowed. This will in turn be loaned to others, and thus the entire amount will constantly bear fruit. Several memorial scholarship funds of \$400.00 each have already been given or been provided for in wills. Other such funds are greatly needed.

Needs of the Executive Committee.

The needs of the Executive Committee: Education for the Ministry \$60,000; Ministerial Relief \$80,000; Assembly's Home and School, for debts, etc., \$10,000, which will doubtless be taken care of by the sale of property, etc., Schools and Colleges \$10,000; Endowment Fund of Ministerial Relief, \$113,666 to complete the \$136,000 which is required to secure a gift of \$68,000 from an Elder of the Church; an increase of at least \$10,000 in the Student Loan Fund. This makes a total of \$341,666 not counting the \$10,000 for the Home and School.

Henry H. Sweets, Executive Secretary.

FIFTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESBYTERIAN COMMITTEE OF PUBLICATION. Summarized Statement.

With gratitude to God for His blessing on our efforts during a year of perplexity and strenuous effort, we report:

- (1) The completion of our new building at Texarkana, Ark.-Texas, which was occupied October 1, 1915. Total cost of lot and building about \$56,000.00.
- (2) Publication of a larger number of leaflets and reprints than for several years past.
- (3) The circulation of over 12,000,000 copies of Sunday-school periodicals, an increase of about 500,000 over former record.
- (4) Participation in Sunday-school Institutes and Conferences at Montreat, N. C., Kerrville, Texas, Jackson, Miss., Clarksville, Tenn., and help rendered in numbers of Presbyterian Institutes, and local churches.
- (5) An increase in the number of Sunday-school field workers employed. An enlargement of the scope of our educational work.
- (6) Increased donations of Sunday-school periodicals, libraries, Bibles, tracts, etc.
- (7) Establishment of a Family Altar League for our Church through co-operation with the Assembly's Committee on The Sabbath and Family Religion.
- (8) Co-operation with the other Executive Committees in support of the Woman's Auxiliary and the Campaign for Stewardship.
- (9) Received for the support of Sunday-school Extension and Benevolent Work, \$37,556.26, and expended for the same cause, \$40,132.32.
- (10) Book value of property in our hands \$284,768. In 1904 the value of property in our hands was \$102,000.00. We have given to the Benevolent Fund \$56,718.00 from the earnings of the Business Department during the same period.

Texarkana Depository and New Building.

For some twenty years prior to 1906 our churches west of the Mississippi River, found it difficult to patronize the Richmond Depository, owing to distance and time required to send orders and receive supplies. The need for a depository close at hand found expression in repeated overtures to the Assembly, requesting the establishment of a depository at some point more convenient to this large and rapidly growing constituency. In 1906 our committee recognized the necessity for rendering our patrons in the southwest a larger and prompter service, and asked permission of the Assembly of that year to establish a de-

(Continued on page 22)